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PATENT

#15
Amdt. B
3/1/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Zhao, et al.

Serial No.: 09/469,485 - Case No.: 20369Y

Filed: December 22, 1999

For: IMPROVED RECOMBINANT HEPATITIS B
SURFACE ANTIGEN

Art Unit:
1648

Examiner:
Foley, S. A.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 2002. No Extension of Time is believed to be necessary for the filing of this response. However, Applicant Petitions for any Extension of Time found to be necessary for the filing of this response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 13-2755 for the Petition fee and any other fee(s) required to effect this Petition.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231, ON THE DATE APPEARING BELOW.

MERCK & CO., INC.

BY: Aminda A. Shudak DATE: 3/3/03